

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 OMB-01

AID-20 ACDA-19 IO-14 EB-11 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 DRC-01 /141 W

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O R 230859Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5543

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 5557

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, KS

SUBJECT: EMERGENCY MEASURES 1 AND 4 LIFTED

1. BLUE HOUSE SPOKESMAN KIM SONG-JIN ANNOUNCED AUGUST 23 THAT AS OF 1000 HOURS EMERGENCY MEASURES 1 AND 4 HAVE BEEN REVOKED. KIM STATED THAT VIOLATORS OF THE MEASURES WHO HAVE BEEN CONVICTED OR WHOSE CASES ARE PENDING ARE NOT AFFECTED BY THIS ACTION. KIM SAID THAT PRESIDENT HAD INFORMED CABINET OF THIS DECISION AT MEETING MORNING OF AUGUST 23.

2. KIM READ STATEMENT BY PRESIDENT PARK GIVING FOLLOWING RATIONALE FOR ORIGINAL IMPOSITION EMERGENCY MEASURES AND FOR DECISION TO REMOVE THEM AT THIS TIME:

- THE EMERGENCY MEASURES WERE NECESSARY TO PREVENT SUCCESS OF NORTH KOREAN PLOT TO OVERTHROW ROKG.

- THE MEASURES WERE SUCCESSFUL AND THE NORTH KOREAN PLOT HAS FAILED, ALTHOUGH THE NORTH CONTINUES ITS ACTIVITIES TO OVERTHROW GOVERNMENT. THEY HAVE  
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ATTEMPTED AGAIN TO ASSASSINATE PRESIDENT AT NATIONAL

DAY CEREMONY.

- UNFORTUNATELY SOME INDIVIDUALS MISUNDERSTOOD  
NECESSITY OF MEASURES, BELIEVING THAT THEY WERE TO  
SUPPRESS THE PEOPLE.

- THOSE WHO WITNESSED THE TRAGIC SCENE AUGUST 15  
NOW UNDERSTAND WHAT THE COMMUNISTS ARE, WHAT THEY  
ARE PLOTTING, AND THE PEOPLE UNDERSTAND THE NECESSITY  
OF EMERGENCY MEASURES.

- I NOW FEEL SECURE THAT OUR PEOPLE ARE UNITED  
AND FOR THIS REASON BELIEVE THIS THE PROPER TIME TO  
LIFT EMERGENCY MEASURES 1 AND 4.

3. PRESIDENT STATEMENT ENDED WITH CAUTION TO PEOPLE  
ON CONTINUING THREAT FROM NORTH KOREAN COMMUNISTS AND  
CALL FOR NATIONAL CONSENSUS TO SURVIVE AND BUILD BETTER AND  
FREER SOCIETY.

4. EMERGENCY MEASURES 2 AND 3 REMAIN IN FORCE. NO. 2  
PROVIDED THE COURT MARTIAL STRUCTURE TO CONTINUE WITH  
THE ONGOING CASES. NO. 3 IS EXPECTED TO BE LIFTED  
AFTER SEPTEMBER REGULAR ASSEMBLY SESSION PASSES ECONOMIC  
LEGISLATION TO TAKE ITS PLACE.

5. INITIAL PUBLIC REACTION TO LIFTING MEASURES HAS  
BEEN MIXED. NEW NDP PRESIDENT KIM YONG-SAM HAS WELCOMED  
REVOCATION BUT CALLED FOR LIFTING OF ALL MEASURES.  
DUP HAS CALLED FOR RELEASE OF THOSE ARRESTED. RADIO  
HAS BROADCAST CRITICAL COMMENTS BY CHURCH AND EDUCA-  
TIONAL LEADERS TO EFFECT THAT REPEAL DID NOT INCLUDE  
RELEASE THOSE ARRESTED UNDER MEASURES.

6. IN CONVERSATION WITH CHARGE, FONMIN KIM DONG-JO  
SAID TODAY'S ACTION SHOULD ASSIST USG TO DEFEND ROKG  
WITH CONGRESS, PRESS AND PUBLIC, AND EXPRESSED HOPE  
US SPOKESMEN COULD MAKE FAVORABLE PUBLIC COMMENT.  
WHEN CHARGE REMARKED THAT SUCH STATEMENT MIGHT BE  
CONSTRUED AS INTERFERENCE IN ROK DOMESTIC AFFAIRS,  
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FONMIN REPLIED, "THAT IS KIND OF INTERFERENCE WE NEED  
AND WOULD WELCOME."

7. COMMENT: PRIOR TO AUGUST 15 ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT,  
SEVERAL HIGHLY PLACED SOURCES HAD TOLD US PRIVATELY  
THAT ROKG INTENDED TO LIFT ONE OR MORE OF EMERGENCY  
MEASURES IN RELATIVELY NEAR FUTURE (OBVIOUSLY WITH  
UPCOMING UNGA IN MIND). AFTER EVENTS OF AUGUST 15,

HOWEVER, MOST OBSERVERS WERE INCLINED TO FEAR WORST, ON ASSUMPTION THAT GRIEF, RAGE AND HIS OWN INCLINATIONS, PLUS ADVICE FROM HARD LINERS AROUND HIM, WOULD CAUSE PRESIDENT TO TAKE EVEN HARSHER STANCE. THUS IN LIFTING EMERGENCY MEASURES, PRESIDENT HAS IN LARGE DEGREE CONFOUNDED EXPECTATIONS OF MANY WHO OPPOSE HIM.

8. WE DO NOT NOW HAVE ANY SOLID INFORMATION AS TO PRECISELY WHAT FACTORS DETERMINED THIS DECISION. OBVIOUSLY, MOUNTING EVIDENCE OF DISSATISFACTION WITH ROK INTERNAL SITUATION FROM ABROAD WAS ONE FACTOR, AND DEATH OF MADAME PARK ALSO CREATED CIRCUMSTANCES, WHICH PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT OUTLINES CLEARLY, CONDUCTIVE TO CONCILIATORY GESTURE WITH REDUCED RISK THAT OPPONENTS WILL BE ABLE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF RELAXATION.

9. LIFTING OF EMERGENCY MEASURES DOES NOT, OF COURSE, MEAN END OF ALL REPRESSION. THERE WILL BE MANY WHO SAY THAT PURPOSE AND EFFECT ARE LARGELY COSMETIC. IT DOES NOT AFFECT STATUS OF THOSE ALREADY CHARGED AND GOVT HAS MEANS, INCLUDING ABILITY TO REIMPOSE MEASURES IF NECESSARY, TO CRACK DOWN ON ANY WHO MAY BE DISPOSED TO PUT GOVT RESOLVE TO TEST. IN THIS CONTEXT, APPOINTMENT OF PRIMARILY MILITARY MEN CHOSEN LARGELY ON BASIS PROVEN LOYALTY TO PRESIDENT IN PAST TO FILL POSTS IN SECURITY AGENCIES PROVIDES SHARP COUNTERPOINT TO RELAXATION OF EMERGENCY DECREES.

10. NEVERTHELESS, TODAY'S ACTION IS FIRST STEP GOVT HAS TAKEN TO MITIGATE REPRESSIVE ATMOSPHERE SINCE JANUARY 8 IMPOSITION OF FIRST EMERGENCY MEASURES. AS SUCH, IT IS TO BE WELCOMED.  
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